Supply of foodgrains to West Bengal

*145. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE; Will the Minister pf FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer t° the answer. to Unstarred Question 1289 given in the Rajya Sabha m the 6th March, 1987. and state "the reasons for. ' which. the supply of foodgrains to West Bengal under the NREP had come dowri steadily during the year 1984-85 and 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE, MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD); It is not correct to. say that supplies of foodgrains" to West Bengalunde$_r$ National Rural Employment Programme have come down steadily. As per information available, fhe quantities supplied daring 1984-85, 1985^86 ana* 1986-87 were approximately 9, 400 tonnes 28, 800 tonnes and 42, 200 tonnes respectively.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am sorry to ^{Sa}y that the Answer of the hon. Minister is not at all correct. This is the reply, he has given fo my unstarred Question No. 1289 dated 6th • March. The table s'nows that there has been a steady define of food Supply even -during the year J986-87. ' The figures given are in terms of per thousand metric tonnes. For the year 1985-86 there is' no figure for rice and wheat has been mentioned as 28. 8. For 1986-87 the figure given for rice is 0. 1 and for wheat 211. 4. ' Hven in the last assignment it declined. This degliae. in supply $_0$f foodgrains in. West Bengal; s in spite of the fact tlrat the performance of West Bengal^ in respect of NREP is best, even according to the Economic Survey. Last year it was about 144 and m the present year 1986-87 already it is close to 100 per cent.

to mention that in 1984-85 barely1. 70 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, not $_e$yenper cent of the total available hugestock pile of 3 crore tonnes of foodgrainslying with FCI was given for NREP.

Wnile monetary allocation proposed for NREP; n the "Seventh Plan even less than that of Sixth -Plan, the proposed allocation of, foodgrain over the five. year period 1985-90 is only 1 million tonnes more than normal requirements. The pro. posed allocation fOr IRDP is also less than what it was in the Sixth Plan. For NREP you have increased the wage rate from Rs. 6 to Rs. 12 but did not increase the 'allocation for funds.

With this stringent allocation and short supply of foodgrajns 1 beg to ask $_0$'f the hon. Minister; What is the experience of t'ne Government about the anti-poverty programme in rural areas? What is the quality of programme in different States, that s, which are the States reaching thei$_r$ targets and which-States are lagging behind?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have to put a separate questionon this.

SHRIMATi KANAK MUKHERJEE; Secondly, will the Government see that with the- given huge stock of foodgrains at least five million tonnes are given each year to NREP-------

MR. CHAIRMAN.. You have exhausted the time, for second supplementary also. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir,. most, of the supplementaries which the hon. lady Member has put forward belong to the Rural Development Ministry. I would like to answer the supplementary which is connected to Food and Supplies Ministry.

The hon. lady Member ha$_s$ said that so $_t$ far as fhe supply of wheat f$_{0r}$ NREP-is concerned; it,. has declined in the previou$_3$ few years. I would like to mention for he$_r$ information that m "1982-83 it was 18, 200 tonnes, in 1983-84 it was 17, 700' tonnes, in 1984-85 it. was 9, 400 tonnes. In 1985-86 it was 28. 800 tonnes and in 1986-87 it was 42, 200 tonnes, she has referred to her earlier question, Sir, at that tim. we gave the figures upto 1st January, 1987 only, as asked for by her but by the end of year i. e., on 3lst Marc's, there has been further lifting and now it is no more 21, 000 tonnes;; $_t$ is 42, 000 toanes..

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERIEE: In the previous Food for Work Programme, about 2 million tonnes of food were distributed each year to create millions of mandays. Anyway, it was stopped. Even the NREP, RLEGP, IRDP and anti-poverty programme can easily constitute an ' alternative strategy of rural development ' if the stockpile of fbodgrains available with the public agencies are allocated and properly used for these anti-poverty programmes. Will this Government give the most serious thought to this?

SHRi GHULAM NAM AZAD. Sirpas I have already mentioned, this question which the hon. Member is referring to belongs to Agricultural Ministry, particularly Rural Development* Department., As far as, we are concerned, the Rural Development Department asks for food and we supply the food to. that Depart-1 ment. It is their business to further distribute through NREP.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतायेंगे कि जहां तक भारत सरकार से स्टेट गवर्नमेंट तक की सप्लाई का ताल्लुक है, वह मोर देन नार्मल है और फेयर डिस्ट्रिब्यूटन में इसलिये डिटिरियोरेशन है कि वहां एक पर्टिकुलर पार्टी एक पर्टिकुलर ग्रुप को एम्पलाई कराना चाहती है और उस परपज के लिये वहां दो मर्डर भी हो चुके हैं और वहां दो डिपो बन्द किये, जिससे सप्लाई डिटिरियोरेटेड है। क्या इस बारे में मंत्री जी बतायेंगे ? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GtJRUDAS DAS GUPTA. sir, he is'abusing his right.

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN: I am nortbusing my right. I am stating the fact. Two murders have taken* place because a particular party wants/a particular group to be employed. For that reason two depots in West Bengal have been closed. They are not at all functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Question not relevant. Nex-i question.

Restructuring of SAIL

* 146. SHRI KAPIL VERMA; t'
SHRI'HARVENDRA SINGH
HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of -STEEL AM> MINES be pleased to state.

(a) whether, the, Steel Authority of India Limited is being restructured; and

(b) if so, what are. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL ANB MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE); No, sir.

(h) Does not arise.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I have one thousand press: cuttings and some of the national dailies have carried stories on Aprii 6 and 7 saying that SAIL is being' restructured. However, since the-, time is short, I am not going to argue about ft. Perhaps the answer is technical,. However, I would like to 'know whether SAIL *h* implementing any plan under which there will be fever levels and greater vertical interaction through* a flatter organisation. I also want to know whether it is correct that the approval system and promotion policy have been' s&-vised to avoid role clarity and performance orientation, whether the recruitment system has also been revised and whether the level of overtime has been reduced.

SHRI VASANT' SATHE: Sir, the question put was: is the Steel Authority of India Limited feeing restructured, and we normally, ' understood whether, the holding company[1] concept is; being changed anS modified and so on. Yes, we have seen the newspaper, reptffts. Actually there is a misunderstanding about the word "restructured" and they also have put the heading as "restructured". Therefore; our answer to the[1,] question-is,, "No". I accept that reorganisation of the hierarchy etc. fa

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by' Shri KapSVerma.